

ALEXANDRIA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 9, 1861

Congress.-Neither House of Congress was in session yesterday, having adjourned over on Monday, until to-day, in honor of the anniversary of the Battle of New Or-

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE .- On Monday, in the Senate, after the reading of the Governor's Message, very decided resolutions against the coercion of a seceding State were offered by Mr. Douglass, and ordered to be printed. In the House of Delegates, a committee appointed for the purpose, reported very decided resolutions (see report of proceedings) against the power of the Federal Government to coerce a seceding State or States, and pledging Virginia to resist with all ber means any such attempt by the Federal Government so to coerce a seceding sister State. These resolutions were passed by a vote of 112 ayes to 5 nays. The House, also, passed a resolution instructing a select committee promptly to bring in a bill providing for the calling of a Convention of the people to consider the exigencies of the country.

We do not know what degree of credit is to be given to the accounts in the newspapers. of the proceedings of the caucus of the Republican members of Congress, held last Saturday, when the proposition of the Border States were rejected. If approaching correctness, no wonder the fate of the Union is sealed. Lovejoy, of Illinois, is represented to have been characteristically furious against all conciliation, impiously quoting scripture, as is the wont of such fanatics .-Grow, of Pa., Hickman, Chase, &c., are said, to have opposed all efforts at compromise .-If the Republic depended upon such men, its doom would be certain. Nor would there be a conservative man left to regret its fall .-Any thing would be preferable to the domination of such miserable wretches. Thank God! however, we still hope they are but the "flies on the wheel."

The National Intelligencer "deprecates any action on the part of the Federal Government which would have for its effect to intensify and widen the spirit of resistance which animate a portion of the Southern mind." Conservative men, must every where, come to the conclusion, that coercion, threats, and all that, will do nothing but harm. Such things will not cure the past, nor prevent what is intended. Nay, they would be certain to render "resistance unanimous and determined-and, in that case, the Southern States need not fear any power brought against them. If the Union can be honorably saved or honorably restored-let it be done-and that it may be done we fervently hope and pray-but if it cannot be done-let the separation be peaceful, if

The Baltimore American discusses the "expense of the crisis" as it will fall on, and have to be borne at, the North. Besides its manufacturing establishments, its hotel property, its railroads, its merchants, its mechanics have all yet to suffer. If Disunion continues who can estimate the loss to the North? The crisis, which is doing all the harm, has been a pet beast with some of these Northern traders for a dozen years; and hitherto his expensiveness has not been felt or demonstrated.

Rev. James A. Duncan, a distinguished preacher of the Methodist Church, South, delivered an eloquent sermon on Friday last, in Richmond, in which, it is said, after arousing the feelings of his auditory to the highest pitch, he declared, in a climax of lofty fervor, that, "should the arbitrament of battle be forced upon us, he would glory in lifting his raised at Sumter precisely at noon on the voice at the head of Virginia's columns in a triumphant song of Zion for the safety of our families and our homes."

The Charleston Mercury declares for war. It says that in holding Fortress Sumter and in attempting to collect the United States revenue in the harbor of Charleston, the government makes war against South Carolina. It says this will be met with war, and "Yankee commerce will be made the spoils of our privateers." And in this way, the peal for support, encouragement and mercy direst calamity that can befal a people is

Every day and every hour that the Northern States, Senators, Representatives, and people, delay in, or hold back from, coming to an amicable and fair adjustment of difficulties, by doing justice to the South, and giving guarantees for future peace, increases the Secession feeling in the South, and renders more certain the entire dissolution of tie Union, and the establishment of two or more confederacies.

Another State has seceded! Another star is stricken from the flag of our country. The are to not as a guard for the Governtelegraphic dispatch from Tallahasse, published in yesterday's Gazette, announced that the Convention of FLORIDA has passed a resolution to the effect that it was the right and is understood to have strengly urged upon duty of the State to secode, by a vote of 62 to the War Department that it would not be 5-and the Ordinance of Secession was then | politic to send them there at this time. adopted.

The Pennsylvanian, warmly opposed to Senator Douglas during the late Presidential election, publishes the recent speech of the Senator, "as the rallying cry of the Northern Democracy and Northern conservatives,

some days past, in consequence of indisposi-

We regret to see it stated that it is probable the United States sloop of war Levant, has foundered at sea, with the loss of all on board. She has been cruizing among the Sandwich islands, and had sailed for Panama, where she had been expected for near fifty days. Her officers were:-

Commander, Wm. E. Hunt; Lieutenants, W. C. B. S. Porter, E. C. Stout, Colville Terrett, R. T. Bowen, Dawson Phoenix, attached to the flag; Purser, A. J. Watson; Acting Master, J. C. Mosely ; First Lieut. of Marines, R. L. Browning; Passed Assistant Surgeon, J. S. Gilliam; Assistant Surgeon, D. E. Montgomery; Captain's Clerk, A. O. Shuff; Purser's Clerk, C. Woodward : Acting Boatswain, H. Edmonston; Acting Gunner, R. S. King; Carpenter, John Jarvis; Sailmaker, C. T. Frost; Master's Mates, Wm. Lewis, P. Morrison, Samuel II. Brown.

The Baltimore American says: "We know that the plan of compromise submitted by the venerable Senator from Kentucky meets with the unanimous approval of the people of this State. We do not believe there are in Maryland one hundred men who would not cheerfully accept that plan as a fair, equal and conclusive settlement of all the rritating questions that now afflict and distract the country. Almost the same unanimty in relation to it prevails in all the Border Slave States, whilst in the adjoining Free States, especially in Pennsylvania, there s an increasing concentration of opinion upon it as offering the most available point

Hon. Humphrey Marshall, of Kentucky, has written a letter, in favor of sustaining | ing with their masters. the Union as long as our rights can be sustained, and is not willing to despair of obtaining those rights by peaceable and honor-

A reward of one thousand dollars is offered in New York, for the recovery of a boy about fifteen years of age, named Walter Tucker, who was forcibly kidnapped from his room at No. 23 Amity street, while retiring to bed about half past nine o'clock on

There are but few vessels, it is said, with which operations in the harbor of Charleston could be conducted with advantage, and these are principally gunboats.

The United States revenue cutter Forward, Capt. Nones, sailed from Wilmington Delaware, on Thursday last, under secre

The wife of Major Anderson (a daughter of Gen. Clinch) has, it is stated, gone quietly to Charleston, only attended by a ser-

Gov. Perry, of Florida, reached home last week, from the North, where he purchased 1,000 Hayward rifles, and 5,000 Minnie muskets for the use of the State.

The Senate has referred the nomination of a Collector for the port of Charleston, to a

The President is most bitterly denounced in the South Carolina newspapers.

The telegraphic synopsis of the Governor's Message, having taken the wire edge off of the public desire, to know its nature and recommendations, we proceed to publish the document, leisurely, and by such instalments, as will enable us, while giving it, in full, to keep up with the current news of the day.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

M. S. Crockett, esq., well known as editer of the Farm Journal, died of hemmorhage of the lungs on the 23d ult., at the resi dence of his father in Wythe County. It was only a few weeks ago that he visited Scottsville, with a view of opening an acad-

Frederick S. Myles, esq., member of the House of Delegates, from Lee county, was, on Saturday, while on the street, in Richnond, seized with a fit and dropped down. He was taken into a house close by, and was | sissippi. thence removed to his hotel where medical aid was rendered. He was much improved.

The faculty of Lynchburg College, in a truly commendable spirit, have determined to educate one indigent meritorious youth for every church and charitable institution in that city-free of charge.

The Albemarle Insurance Company, at its last meeting, declared a semi-annual dividend of six per cent-making we believe 14 per cent declared this year.

AN INCIDENT AT FORTRESS SUMTER -- One of the Baltimoreans who recently returned details an impressive incident that took place there on Major Anderson taking possession. It is known that the American flag, brought away from Fort Moultrie, was 27th ult., but the incidents of that "flag raising" have not been related. A short time before noon, Major Anderson assembled the whole of his little force, with the workmen employed on the fort, around the foot of the flag-staff. The national ensign was attached to the cord, and Major Anderson holding the end of the lines in his hands knelt reverently down. The officers, soldiers and men clustered around, many of them on their knees, all deeply impressed with the solemnity of the scene. The chaplain made an earnest prayer-such an ap as one would make who felt that "man's extremity is God's opportunity." As the earnest, solemn words of the speaker ceased. and the men responded Amen, with a fervency that perhaps they had never before experienced. Major Anderson drew the Star Spangled Banner" up to the top of the staff, the band broke out with the national air of "Hail Columbia," and loud and exultant cheers, repeated again and again, were given by the officers, soldiers and workmen .- Balt. Amer.

HARPER'S FERRY .- A detachment of sixtyeight dismounted dragoons passed through Baltimore vesterday afternoon, from Carlisle (Pa.) barracks to Harper's Ferry, where they ment's armory and other property there. They were ordered thither on the requisition of Superintendant Barbour, Mr. Boteler, | James D. Johnston, U. S. N. late Executive offithe Representative of the district in Congress

The Washington Star says: - 'On Sunday night last there was a gathering of armed people principally from Charleston and Martinsburg, at Harper's Ferry, whose errand was evidently to prevent the U. S. troops from taking possession of the Government's property there; it being rumored in that vicinity that the train of that evening would being up whatever their Presidential preferences may troops to that end. The citizens of Harper's Ferry, however gave them to understand that they would protect the Government's Hon. Wm. Smith has been detained from rights in their midst to the last extremity his seat in the House of Representatives, for until Virginia in her sovereign capacity might leave the Union. So the parties from Charleston and Martinsburg wisely conclu-ding that they had got into the wrong box. Apply to LEWIS ELLIS.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the TIMES." The House Committee of Thirty-three, on Monday, had under consideration Mr. Winter Davis' amendment to the Fugitive Slave law. An amendment, offered by Mr. Washburn, of Wisconsin, guaranteeing a trial by jury in the State where the fugitive was seized, was rejected by a vote of 8 against ted, guaranteeing a trial by jury in the State

where the fugitive escaped. The Republican says of the Cabinet announced for Mr. Lincoln, by the New York Tribune:-"The statement of the Tribune does not rest upon any information which justifies the positive manner in which it is made; but still, the line of policy as respects the South, which such appointments would indicate, has unquestionably been resolved upon at Springfield. Three of the Cabinet officers will be given to the South."

We see the following significant paragraph in the accounts from Charleston:-"The rich people of the State are called upon to take the new State loan of \$400,000. and some coercion may be used if there is any halt in subscribing. Most of the sum, however, will be taken willingly, but the rich who do not help the State pecuniarily, will be marked.'

Petitions are circulating in New York State, asking for a re-enactment of an old State law, allowing citizens of Southern States to have slaves with them, in the State, for nine months. Gov. Packer has recommended to the Pennsylvania Legislature a re-enactment of its old six months' law, proteeting slaves for six months, while sojourn-

The last communication from the South Carolina Commissioners was returned by the President, with the comment that it was not a proper communication to be addressed to him: in it the Commissioners directly impugn the good faith of the President, and charge him with provoking a war with South Carolina.

The Charleston Courier indignantly repudiates the idea that a mob is included among the peculiar institutions of the Palmetto State. According to the Courier's logic, a crowd has only to be "too large for any resistance" to escape the imputation of being

A Cincinnati speaker, addressing a late meeting in that city, made the remark that there is no large city in any country on the borders of another nationality, and predicted that, if civil war ensues, the prosperity of Cincinnati will be entirely destroyed.

A letter from Charleston, (S. C.,) in the New York Post, says there need be no apprehension of repudiation. The Southern people will certainly pay their bills as soon as possible, but they owe more to their own banks than to the Northern people.

that "the friends of W. II. Russell residing in Lafavette county, Missouri, have signed bonds amounting to a million dollars, which will be tendered to the Federal authorities for his release from prison.'

Gordon, the New Orleans burglar, whose desperate wounding and subsequent escape from the hospital we have mentioned, was re-captured on Friday night last, in an untenanted house, where he had taken refuge.

A Maine correspondent of the Boston Journal has declared that the "movement in certain free States to repeal their personal liberty laws, will not be imitated" in that

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean are coming to the United States. An entire new company of Paris actors and actresses came over in the Fulton, and the French Theatre in New York will soon open for the season.

Two men, named Babb and Williamson, were seriously, and it is thought fatally, wounded by the explosion of a cannon, with which they were firing a salute to Major Anderson, at Williamsport, Pa.

The Star of the West has cleared at New York for New Orleans, and if she has any troops on beard, is probably taking them to the fortifications at the mouth of the Mis-William Kent, son of the famous chancel-

lor, and himself a lawyer of high reputation, died at his residence in Fishkill, N. Y., on the 4th instant. Thurlow Weed, esq., reached Washington

city on Saturday afternoon last. SECESSION AND WAR! SECESSION AND WAR! SECESSION AND WAR

NOW AND FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY! NOW AND FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY! In order to clear out In order to clear out THE REMAINDER OF OUR WINTER STOCK THE REMAINDER OF OUR WINTER STOCK,

We will from this day out, We will from this day out, SELL AT NEW YORK FIRST COST, SELL AT NEW YORK FIRST COST, AT COST. AT COST. AT COST. As the season is rather advanced. As the season is rather advanced.

We offer a beautiful We offer a beautiful VARIETY OF SHAWLS AND CLOAKS. VARIETY OF SHAWLS AND CLOAKS, At 124 per cent.

At 121 per cent. BELOW COST. BELOW COST. BELOW COST In order to make room for In order to make room for SPRING GOODS SPRING GOODS

Zer Call and see the inducements! We are ilways willing, and ever ready, to show what we IS SO! IS SO! IS SO! IS SO! C. L. & D. SICHER,

Corner King & Pitt-street

DERIODICALS FOR 1861 .- Subscribers to the Foreign Reviews and Blackwood, Harpers' Magazine, Cultivator, Country Gentleman, American Farmer, Hays' Medical Journal and News, Braithwaite's Retrospect, and other Periodicals, are reminded that their subscriptions ter minated with the year 1860, and that the Magazines will be discontinued, unless the order for th present year is renewed. Subscriptions payable

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CORRESPONDENCE

Between the President and the Commissioners of South Carolina.

The Commissioners to the President. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1860. We have the honor to transmit to you a copy of the full powers from the Convention of the people of South Carolina, under which we are "authorized and empower-10. Mr. Davis' amendment was then adop- United States for the delivery of the forts, magazines, lighthouses, and other real estate, with their appurtenances, in the Carolina, with a single exception, of which limits of South Carolina; and also for an the following is a copy: apportionment of the public debt, and for a Washington, 9th December, 1860. division of all other property held by the Government of the United States as agent of the Confederated States of which South Carolina was recently a member, and generally to negotiate as to all other measures and arrangements proper to be made and adopted in the existing relation of the parties, and for the continuance of peace and Government at Washington."

duty to furnish you, as we now do, with an declared her perfect sovereignty and inde- status shall remain as at present. nendence.

It would also have been our duty to have informed you that we were ready to negotiate with you upon all such questions as are necessarily raised by the adoption of this Ordinance, and that we were prepared to enter upon this negotiation with the earnest desire to avoid all unnecessary and hostile collision, and so to inaugurate our new relations as to secure mutual respect, general advantage, and a future of good will and harmony beneficial to all the parties concerned. But the events of the last twenty-four hours render such an assurance im-

We came here the representatives of an authority which could, at any time within the past sixty days, have taken possession of the forts in Charleston harbor, but which, upon pledges given in a manner that we cannot doubt, determined to trust to your honor rather than to its own power. Since our arrival here an officer of the United States, acting, as we are assured, not only without, but against your orders, has dismantled one fort and occupied another, thus altering, to a most important extent, the ondition of affairs under which we came. Until these circumstances are explained in a manner which relieves us of all doubt as to the spirit in which these negotiations shall be conducted, we are forced to suspend all discussion as to any arrangements by

bly adjusted. And, in conclusion, we would urge upon you the immediate withdrawal of the troops from the harbor of Charleston. Under present circumstances they are a standing menace which renders negotiation impossible, and, as our recent experience shows, A St. Louis despatch, dated the 6th, says threatens speedily to bring to a bloody issue questions which ought to be settled with reinforcements to the forts in Charleston cy, would of itself be destructive of the true emperance and judgment. We have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servants, R. W. BARNWELL,

which our mutual interests might be amica-

J. H. ADAMS, JAMES L. ORR,

To the PRESIDENT of the United States. The President to the Commissioners.

Washington, Dec. 30, 1860. GENTLEMEN: I have had the honor to reeive your communication of the 28th inst., ogether with a copy of "your full powers from the Convention of the people of South Carolina," authorizing you to treat with the Government of the United States on various important subjects therein mentioned, and also a copy of the Ordinance, bearing date on the 20th instant, declaring that

Union now subsisting between South Carelina and other States, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dis-In answer to this communication, I have to say that my position as President of the

United States was clearly defined in the message to Congress on the 3d instant. In that I stated that "apart from the execution of the laws, so far as this may be practicable, the Executive has no authority to deside what shall be the relations between the Federal Government and South Carolina. He has been invested with no such discretion. He possesses no power to change the relations heretofore existing between them, much less to acknowledge the independence of that State. This would be to invest a mere executive officer with the power of re- gression, and for that reason you are not cognizing the dissolution of the Confederacy among our thirty-three sovereign States. It bears no resemblance to the recognition of a would, on his part, be a naked act of usurpation. It is, therefore, my duty to submit | your force will not permit you, perhaps, to to Congress the whole question in all its bearings.

Such is my opinion still. I could, thereling to communicate to Congress any proposition you might have to make to that body upon the subject. Of this you were well aware. It was my earnest desire that such a disposition might be made of the tile act. whole subject by Congress, who alone possess the power, as to prevent the inauguration of a civil war between the parties in regard to the possession of the Federal forts in the harbor of Charleston, and I therefore deeply regret that, in your opinion, "the events of the last twenty-four hours render this impossible."

immediate withdrawal of the troops from | degree affect the present question the harbor of Charleston," stating that "under present circumstances they are a standing menace, which render negotiation impossible, and, as our recent experience shows, threaten speedily to bring to a bloody issue questions which ought to be settled with temperance and judgment."

The reason for this change in your position is, that since your arrival in Washington "an officer of the United States, acting, as we (you) are assured, not only without but against your (mv) orders, has dismantled one fort and occupied another-thus altering to a most important extent the condition of affairs under which we (you) came.' You also allege that you came here "the representatives of an authority which could. at any time within the past sixty days, have taken possession of the forts in Charleston harbor, but which, upon pledges given in a But before any step could possibly have been manner that we (you) cannot doubt, deter- taken in this direction we received informamined to trust to your (my) honor rather tion that the "Palmetto flag floated out to than to its power."

manner they have been observed.

standing, or how desperate the case may be, can by the consent of the Legislature of the when the removal was made seized, by a be perfectly and permanently cured by stating State," for the erection of forts, magazines, ar- military force, two of the three Federal case and remitting \$2, when the remedy will be senals, &c., and over these the authority "to forts in the harbor of Charleston, and have exercise exclusive legislation" has been ex- covered them under their own flag, instead by the General Government of a State of the character, is at hand to prove the virtues of this | pressly granted by the Constitution to Con- of that of the United States. MEDICINE. All communications will receive gress. It is not believed that any attempt will At this gloomy period of our history, start- with instruction to report thereon immedi-FOR SALE.—A desirable farm containing about ly on the defensive. In such a contingency tom house and post office in Charleston; and went into session immediately:—Messrs. rightfully rest upon the heads of the as- -Collector, Naval Officer, Surveyor, and Yerby, of Northampton; Seddon, of Stafford;

said to me verbally. They did so according- in its stead. ed to treat with the Government of the ly, and on Monday morning, the 10th inst., three of them presented to me a paper signed by all the Representatives from South

To His Excellency James Buchanan,

President of the United States: In compliance with our statement to you yesterday, we now express to you our strong convictions that neither the constituted authorities, nor any body of the people of the State of South Carolina, will either attack or molest the United States forts in the haramity between this Commonwealth and the | bor of Charleston, previously to the action of the Convention, and we hope and believe In the execution of this trust it is our not until an offer has been made through an accredited representative to negotiate for an official copy of the Ordinance of secession amicable arrangement of all matters between by which the State of South Carolina has the State and the Federal Government, proresumed the powers she delegated to the vided that no reinforcements shall be sent Government of the United States, and has into those forts, and their relative military

John McQueen, M. L. BONHAM, W. W. Boyce,

LAWRENCE M. KEITT. And here I must, in justice to myself, remark that at the time the paper was presented to me I objected to the word "provided," as it might be construed into an agreement on my part which I never would make .-They said that nothing was farther from their intention; they did not so understand it, and I should not so consider it. It is evident they could enter into no reciprocal agreement with me on the subject. They did not profess to have the authority to do this and were acting in their individual character. I considered it as nothing more, in effect, than the promise of highly honorable gentlemen to exert their influence for the purpose expressed. The event has proven

that they have faithfully kept this promise, although I have never since received a line from any one of them, or from any member of the Convention on the subject. It is well known that it was my determination, and this I freely expressed, not to reinforce the forts in the harbor, and thus produce a collision, until they had been actually attacked, or until I had certain evidence that they were about to be attacked. This paper I received most cordially, and considered it as a happy omen that peace might be still preserved, and that time might be thus given for reflection. This is the whole foundation for the alleged pledge.

But I acted in the same manner as would have done had I entered into a positive and formal agreement with parties capable of contracting, although such an agreement would have been on my part, from the nature of my official duties, impossible .- | indirectly, for the purpose of maintaining | tions: The world knows that I have never sent any Union among the States of our Confederaharbor, and I have certainly never authorized any change to be made "in their rela- of the ends for which it was constructed, with freedom and the republican institutions subject, I refer you to an order issued by evitable results. the Secretary of War, on the 11th instant, to Major Anderson, but not brought to my

Memorandum of verbal instructions to Maj. Anderson, First Artillery commanding, Fori Moultrie, South Carolina.

"You are aware of the great anxiety the Secretary of War that a collision of the troops with the people of this State shall be avoided, and of his studied determination to pursue a course with reference to the military force and forts in this harbor which shall guard against such a collision. He has, therefore, carefully abstained from increas ing the force at this point, or taking any measures which might add to the present excited state of the public mind, or which would throw any doubt on the confidence he feels that South Carolina will not attempt by violence to obtain possession of the public works, or interfere with their occupancy.

"But, as the counsel and acts of rash and impulsive persons, may possibly disappoint these expectations of the Government, he deems it proper that you should be prepared with instructions to meet so unhappy contingency. He has, therefore, directed me verbally to give you such instructions.

"You are carefully to avoid every act which would needlessly tend to provoke agwithout necessity, to take up any position which could be construed into the assumption of a hostile attitude; but you are to foreign de facto Government, involving no hold possession of the forts in this harbor, such responsibility. Any attempt to do this and, if attacked, you are to defend yourself to the last extremity. The smallness of occupy more than one of the three forts, but an attack on, or attempt to take possession of either of them, will be regarded as an fore, meet you only as private gentlemen of act of hostility, and you may then put your the highest character, and was entirely wil- command into either of them which you may deem most proper to increase its power of resistance. You are also authorized to take similar steps whenever you have tangible evidence of a design to proceed to a hostile act.

D. P. BUTLER,

"Assistant Adjutant General. "FORT MOULTRIE, (S. C.) DEC. 11, 1860. "This is in conformity to my instructions to Major Buell.

"John B. Floyd, Secretary of War." These were the last instructions transmit ted to Major Anderson before his removal to Fort Sumter, with a single exception, in re-In conclusion, you urge upon me "the gard to a particular which does not in any

Under these circumstances it is clear that Major Anderson acted upon his own responsibility, and without authority, unless, in deed, he had "tangible evidence of a design the authorities of South Carolina, which has not yet been alleged. Still he is a brave and honorable officer, and justice requires that he should not be condemned without a fair

Be this as it may, when I learned that Major Anderson had left Fort Moultrie and proceeded to Fort Sumter my first promptings were to command him to return to his former position, and there to await the contingencies presented in his instructions .-This could only have been done with any degree of safety to the command by the concurrence of the South Carolina authorities. the breeze at Castle Pickney, and a large coerce any State to re-union or submission, This brings me to a consideration of the military force went over last night (the 27th) whether under the claim of enforcing the January. For terms, apply at FRENCH'S Book nature of those alleged pledges, and in what to Fort Moultrie." Thus the authorities of the United States in South Carolina, that it hand acted not only without but against my her means and power. "has been purchased for a fair equivalent, orders, on the very next day after the night Mr. Robertson, of Richmond city, offer-

be made to expel the United States from this ling events succeed each other rapidly. On ately. property by force: but if in this I should the very day, the 27th instant, that posses. The amendment was adopted, and then prove to be mistaken, the officer in command sion of these two forts was taken, the Pal- afterwards the resolution as amended. The of the forts has received orders to act strict- metto flag was raised over the Federal cus- following committee was appointed and the responsibility for consequences would on the same day every officer of the customs Robertson, of Richmond; Bassell, of Upshur; Appraiser—resigned their offices. And this, Hopkins, of Washington: Chapman, of Mon- and for sale by This being the condition of the parties, on although it was well known from the lan- roe; Martin, of Henry; Wood, of Albemarle; dec 20

Saturday, 8th of December, four of the Rep- guage of my message, that as an executive | Anderson, of Botetour !! Cowan, of Preston! resentatives from South Carolina called up- officer I felt myself bound to collect the reve- Duckwall, of Morgan; Ball, of Loudoun; on me and requested an interview. We had | nue at the port of Charleston under the exan earnest conversation on the subject of isting laws. In the harbor of Charleston these forts, and the best means of prevent- we now find three forts confronting each ing a collision between the parties, for the other, over all of which the Federal flag purpose of sparing the effusion of blood. I floated only four days ago; but now, over suggested, for prudential reasons, that it two of them, this flag has been supplanted, would be best to put in writing what they and the Palmetto flag has been substituted

It is under these circumstances that I am urged immediately to withdraw the troops from the harbor of Charleston, and am informed that without this, negotiation is impossible. This I cannot do; this I will not do. Such an idea was never thought of by me, in any possible contingency. No such allusion had been made in any communica-

tion between myself and any human being. But the inference is, that I am bound to withdraw the troops from the only fort remaining in the possession of the United States, in the harbor of Charleston, because the officer there in command of all the forts thought proper, without instructions, to change his position from one of them to another.

At this point of writing, I have received information by telegraph, from Capt. Hum-phreys, in command of the Arsenal at Charleston, that "it has to-day (Sunday, the 30th) been taken by force of arms." It is estimated that the munitions of war belonging to the United States in this arrenal are worth half a million of dollars.

Comment is needless. After this information, I have only to add that, whilst it is my duty to defend Fort Sumter as a portion of the public property of the United States against hostile attacks, from whatever quarter they may come, by such means as I may possess for this purpose, I do not perceive how such a defence can be construed into a menace against the city of Charleston.

With great personal regard, I remain, yours, very respectfully.

JAMES BUCHANAN. To Honorable Robert W. Barnwell, James

H. ADAMS, JAMES L. ORR. The reply of the Commissioners to the above letter, being the conclusion of the Correspondence, will be published in our next.]

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

The Senate assembled on Monday. In the absence of Lieut. Gov. Montague, he Senate was called to order by Mr. Day, on whose motion Mr. Johnson, of Bedford, was called to the Chair. The roll was called, and twenty-eight

Senators responded to their names. The proclamation of the Governor, convening the General Assembly, was then read by the Clerk.

After the Governor's Message was received and disposed of, Mr. Douglass offered the following joint resolutions, which, under the rules, were laid over: Resolved by the General Assembly of Vir-

jinia, That, in the judgment of this General Assembly, the use of force by the Federal Government, by land or sea, directly or tive military status." Bearing upon this and revolutionary in all its natural and in-Resolved, That when any of these States,

in the orderly exercise of its sovereign will, notice until the 21st instant. It is as fol- shall separate itself from the rest, and resuming the powers heretofore delegated to the Federal Government, at the same time renounces the benefits and obligations of the same, Virginia will not consent that the St te so separating itself shall be coerced into re union, either by the exercise of the war power directly against such State, or by the use of military force against the inlividual citizens thereof.

Resolved, That Virginia ought to, and will, resist all attempts by the Federal Government thus to overthrow and destroy the Union, and will regard any forcible measures taken against any of the constituent members, who shall have dissolved their connection with it, as dangerous to her freedom and security, and demanding the most active preparations for defence.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, the Committee of Military Affairs was instructed to report a plan for putting the State in the best ossible condition of defence.

On motion of Mr. Wickham, the same committee was instructed to inquire into the expediency of making additional appropriations for the military defences of the

Mr. Thomas offered the following, which, on motion of Mr. Douglass was laid upon

Resolved. That so much of the Governor's nessage as relates to our Federal Relations. be referred to a Select Committee of fifteen, to be chosen from the fifteen Electoral Districts of the State, by the Senate.

After resolutions of respect to the memo ies of Fred. W. Coleman and Alex. Jones, Senators, who have died since the last session, were adopted— The Senate adjourned.

The House of Delegates was called to order by Speaker O. M. Crutchfield, who delivered a short, but neat and telling speech. He expressed the sense of his deep appreciation of the important duties which awaited the consideration of the General Assembly, and invoked the patience, calmness, and firmness of each member, charging them to recollect that the eyes of all interested in the affairs of the whole nation were upon them. Virginia demanded the best service of her sons, and he congratulated himself that from his acquaintance with the House that the mother would not be disappointed. He advised a prompt disposal of all business which might be brought before the Assembly, and at the same time distinctly announced as his opinion that the Assembly should remain in continued session until after the 4th of March at least, and so long thereafto proceed to a hostile act" on the part of ter as the exigency of the events may demand. A message from the Governor was received.

> The vote being taken, 1,500 copies of the Message were ordered to be printed. The following resolutions were offered by Mr. Bassell, of Upshur:

Resolved, by the General Assembly of Virginia, That the Union being formed by the assent of the States, respectively, and being consistent only with freedom and the Republican institutions guaranteed to each, cannot, and ought not, to be maintained by force. That the Government of the Union has no

power to declare or make war against any of the States which have been its constituent members. That any effort by that Government to

South Carolina, without waiting or asking and will be esteemed by Virginia, from com-In my message of the 3d of December for any explanations, and doubtless believ- munity of interests and relations, as war on last, I stated, in regard to the property of ing, as you have expressed it, that the officer her likewise—to be resisted to the utmost of

ed as an amendment to the above: Resolved, That so much of the Governor's Message as refers to the subject of "coercion" Union, be referred to a committee of fifteen

Grattan, of Rockingham; Welch, of -Carter, of Lancaster.

Mr. Bassell supported his resolution. Mr. Yerby the substitute offered by Mr. Robertson. Mr. Seddon favored speedy action.

Mr. Kemper of Madison offered the follow-

Resolved, That a Committee of Fifteen be appointed with instructions to report at the earliest practicable time a bill providing for

a Convention of the people of Virginia

Unanimously adopted, and time taken by

the Speaker to appoint the Committee. Mr. Anderson offered the following: Resolved, That so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the James River and Kanawha Company, be referred to the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation. with instructions to inquire into the expediency of incorporating the Virginia Canal Company, upon the basis of the executory agreement entered into by Messrs. Bellot des Minieres, Brothers & Co., with the said James River and Kanawha Company, on the

1st day of September, 1860. Adopted. Resolutions of enquiry were offered by Mr. Keen, of reporting a bill for the enactment of a stay law; by the same, of legalizing the suspension of the Banks of the Commonwealth

The House, at 3½ oclock, took a recess until 5. The Speaker called the House to order at o'clock.

Mr. Christian moved to reconsider the re-

solution appointing a committee with instructions to bring in a bill for a State Convention. He said that the resolution, as passed appeared to commit this House unanimously, and without any discussion, to the proposition for a Convention; a proposition the most important perhaps, which it was possible for this House to adopt under existing circumstances, certainly it is a question which ought to be considered deliberately and in a full House representing all of Virginia. The resolution passed this morning in face of the fact that many members had not yet arrived, that the roll had not even been called to ascertain if there was a quorum present, as the Constitution requires to transact any business. It was offered amidst the confusion incident to the exciting question concerning the duty of the State to resist coercion, and as the large committee appointed to consider it was retiring. The attention of the House was not called to it on the general supposition that it was a mere resolution of inquiry as to the expediency of

a Convention, not absolutely determining the question in this summary manner. Mr. Kemper detailed the circumstances connected with the passage of the resolution -thought that all members had been sufficiently warned of its introduction and the purport by his remarks upon presenting it, and the distinct reading of the Clerk. He moved the ayes and noes on Mr. Christian's motion, which resulted as follows-aves 31, noes 71.

Mr. Robertson, Chairman of the Committee of Fifteen, reported the following resolu-1. Resolved by the General Assembly. That the Union being formed by the assent of the States respectively, and being consistent only

guaranteed to each, cannot and ought not, to be maintained by force. 2d. That the Government of the Union has no power to declare or make war against

any of the States which have been its con-

stituent members. 3d. That when any one or more of the States have determined, or shall determine, under existing circumstances, to withdraw from the Union, we are unalterably opposed to any attempt on the part of the Federal Government, to coerce the same into re-union or submission, and that we will resist the

same by all the means in our power. Mr. Kemper sustained the resolutions. Mr. Watts moved to lay on the table and print. Mr. Boreman opposed the adoption of the resolutions in an earnest, if not impressive manner. Mr. Christian called for the reading of the resolutions for purposes of information. They were again read, at the request of Mr. Robertson, of R., who proceeded to explain their meaning according

to his understanding. The resolutions being put on their passage, the roll was called, and they passedayes 112, noes 5-[Messrs. Boreman, Mor-

ris. Porter, Richardson and Watts.] The following resolutions were adopted: By Mr. Keen: That the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the availability of the appropriation made at the last session for the arming of the State, and of an addition thereto not exceeding ten millions of dollars; by Mr. Gibson, referring that part of the Governor's Message, recommending an amendment to section 11th of chapter 212 of the Code of Virginia to the Committee of Courts of Justice.

· Adjourned. DIVIDEND NOTICES.

BANK OF THE OLD DOMINION,) DIVIDEND.—The President and Directors of the Bank of the Old Dominion have declared a dividend of three per cent. out of the earnings of the last six months, subject to a deduction of a quarter of one per cent. bonus to the State, leaving two and three quarters nett, payable to the Stockholders on and after the 15th inst.

jan 8-d2w P. E. HOFFMAN, Cashier. DIVIDEND.—The President and Directors of the Exchange Bank of Virginia have declared a dividend of 37 per cent., subject to a deduction of † per cent. bonus, payable on the 15th inst., in currency.
jan 8-d2w W. P. STROTHER, Cashier.

DIVIDEND.—The President and Directors of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia have declared a dividend of three and three quarters per cent. for the last six months, payable in currency on the Sth inst., subject to a deduction of a quarter per cent. bonus to the State, leaving 31 per cent. nett, payable to the Stockholders. J. A. SMITH, Cashier.

MEDICAL CARD. C. WILKINSON offers his services to the W. C. WILKINSON offers his services to the public in the treatment of Cancer, Consumption, and all Secret Diseases. Twenty years successful use of his remedies in euring Cancer, Consumption, and all Secret Diseases, gives them a claim to public favor. Medicines sent to order. All communications promptly attended to. Glenmore, Va., jan S-dlm

OUR FRIENDS WILL TAKE NOTICE, all our accounts have been made off to January 1st, 1861, and distributed. It is very desirable that they should receive immediate attention We most respectfully request all that can possibly do so to call and settle, thereby saving us the trouble of calling upon them. ASHBY & WOOD.

FOR RENT.—The large and desirable two story BRICK DWELLING, on Cameron street, at present occupied by the Rev. Wm. C. Blount. Possession given about the middle of and Periodical Store, 104 King-street. jan 2-tf

BOARD WANTED—By a gentleman and wife in a private family, where there are no other boarders Address C., at this office. ian 7-3t#

L OST-On Friday, a MEERCSHAUM PIPE, in a green morocco case, with amber stem. The finder will be suitably rewarded by leaving it at this office. 1500 SACKS G. A. SALT, part of cargo of ship "Scotsman," direct from Liver-pool, in store and for sale by

SALT TO ARRIVE. 2.300 SACKS G. A. SALT on the way, which will be sold in lots to suit, at low rates. [jan 3] GRAY, MILLER & CO.

PRIME NEW SHOULDERS, SIDES AND BREAST PIECES BACON, just received J. E. DOUGLASS.